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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,448	06/19/2001	Hirofumi Honda	Q64974	2803

7590 05/19/2005

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EXAMINER

LIU, MING HUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,448

Applicant(s)

HONDA ET AL.

Examiner

Ming-Hun Liu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable by Us Patent 6,222,512 to Tajima.

In reference to claim 1, Tajima teaches a driving method of a plasma display panel for driving gradation-wise a plasma display panel having a plurality of discharge cells each arranged in matrix and bearing a role of a pixel by constituting one field of input image signal by a plurality of sub-fields (column 11, lines 65-67). Tajima also teaches setting each of the discharge cells to one of a light emission cell state and a light non-emission cell state in accordance with respective pixel data of the input image signal in each of the sub-fields (column 12, lines 20-29), and causing only the discharge cell under the light emission cell state to emit light a number of light emissions allotted in accordance with weighting of the sub-field, wherein adjacent ones of the plurality of discharge cells constitute a discharge cell block and each of the adjacent ones of the plurality of discharge cells is separately driven according to the respective pixel data of the input image signal (column 23, lines 38-51 and figures 24-26), and for at least one of the subfields the number of light emissions to be allotted respectively to the discharge cells inside

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the discharge cell block are rendered different and are varied for each field (figures 16 and 17; column 24, lines 48-55 and column 19, lines 16-25).

In reference to claim 2, Tajima teaches a driving method of a plasma display panel where the number of light emissions to be allotted respectively to the discharge cells inside the discharge cell block are varied for each field for all the subfields together constituting one field (figures 16 and 17; column 24, lines 48-55 and column 19, lines 16-25).

In reference to claim 3, Tajima teaches a gradation-wise a plasma display panel having a plurality of discharge cells each arranged in a driving method of a plasma display panel for driving matrix and bearing a role of a pixel by constituting one field of input image signal by a plurality of sub-fields (column 11, lines 65-67), where adjacent ones of the plurality of discharge cells constitute a discharge cell (modes 1 and 2 for cells A and B, illustrated in figures 24-26). Tajima teaches that the block and each of the adjacent ones of the plurality of discharge cells is separately driven according to respective pixel data of said input image signal (column 23, lines 38-51 and figures 24-26). Tajima teaches a pixel data write step for setting each of the discharge cells to one of a light emission cell state and a light non-emission cell state in accordance with respective pixel data of the input image signal (column 12, lines 20-29), a first light emission sustain step (S3) for causing only the discharge cell under the light emission cell state among the discharge cells to emit light the number of light emissions corresponding to weighting of the sub-field (figure 8), a first selective erase step (EP) for compulsively bringing only said discharge

cell positioned at a first position inside said discharge cell block consisting of four of the discharge cells adjacent to one another into the light non-emission cell state (figure 26).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 10/18/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant's argument hinges on the idea that Tajima fails to teach that "among the discharge cells in the discharge cell block, the number of light emission which are allotted according to the weighting of the subfields are made different", the examiner disagrees. It can be seen from figures 16, 17 and 26 that the number of light emissions within a cell block (cells A and B) is different, and they differ according to the weighting schemes illustrated in modes 1 and 2.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ming-Hun Liu whose telephone number is (571)272-7770. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ming-Hun Liu


SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER